

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 stand objected to because of informalities. The Examiner indicates that a typographical error in claim 1 should be corrected. In response, Applicant has corrected this error, and requests withdrawal of the objection to the claims on this basis.

Claims 1-4, 11 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Miyake (U.S. Publication No. 2005/0230020). In response, Applicant amended independent claim 1 to include the features of claims 5 and 9, and respectfully traverses the rejection.

Since the features of claims 5 and 9 are added to independent claim 1, this rejection is now moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §102(e) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 11, 13 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Japan '107 (JP 62-239107). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the reasons recited above with respect to the §102(e) rejection based on Miyake.

Since claims 5 and 9 are added to independent claim 1, this rejection is now moot. For this reason, withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 4 and 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Japan '107. Claim 5 is cancelled. Applicant traverses the rejection of claim 4 based on the added feature of claim 9 being added to independent claim 1.

Since claim 1 now includes the feature of claim 9, this rejection is now moot. For this reason, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claim 4 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3 and 12-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Japan '108 (JP 06-239108). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the reasons recited above with respect to the §102(e) rejection based on Miyake.

Since claims 5 and 9 are added to independent claim 1, these rejections are now moot. For this reason, withdrawal of the §102(b)/§103(a) rejections of claims 1-3 and 12-13 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-10 and 12-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Goto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,160,385) in view of Japan '108. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the reasons recited above with respect to the §102(e) rejection based on Miyake.

Since claim 5 is added to independent claim 1, this rejection is now moot. Accordingly, for at least this reason, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection is respectfully requested.

Additionally, Applicant respectfully submits that the present invention is different from Japan '107 in that it includes projections along the axial direction. The protrusions of Japan '107 and Japan '108 are curvy linear. Col. 3, line 44 through col. 4, line 13 of Goto teach protrusions that are arranged at intersection portions. However, the protrusions of Goto are not curvy linear. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that

there is no motivation to combine the curvy linear protrusions of by Japan '107 and Japan '108 with the protrusion type structure of Goto. For the above reasons, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejection of claims 1-4, 6-8, 10, and 12-14 is respectfully requested.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that this Application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

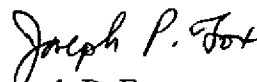
If a Petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for response is required to make the attached response timely, it is hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a) for an extension of time for response in the above-identified application for the period required to make the attached response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required to this Application under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-2069.

Respectfully submitted,

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